

**§ 20.306 Computation of time.**

(a) We compute time periods as follows:

(1) We do not include the first day of the period.

(2) If the last day of the period is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, we extend the period to the next business day.

(3) If the period is 7 days or less, we do not include Saturdays, Sundays, or Federal holidays.

(b) If you were served a document (by domestic mail) that requires or permits a response, you may add 3 days to any period for response.

(c) If you need additional time to file a response, follow the rules in these tables.

(1) You may request an extension—

TABLE 20.306(c)(1)—HOW TO REQUEST AN EXTENSION

If the response period—	By—
Has not expired .....	Telephone, letter, or motion.
Has expired .....	Only by motion describing why the failure to file was excusable.

(2) You file your request as follows:

TABLE 20.306(c)(2)—WHERE TO FILE AN EXTENSION REQUEST

If—	Then you file your request with the—
An ALJ has not been assigned .....	Hearing Docket Clerk.
An ALJ has been assigned .....	ALJ.
Your case is on appeal .....	Hearing Docket Clerk.

**§ 20.307 Complaints.**

(a) The complaint must set forth—

(1) The type of case;

(2) The statute or rule allegedly violated;

(3) The pertinent facts alleged; and

(4)(i) The amount of the class II civil penalty sought; or

(ii) The order of suspension or revocation proposed.

(b) The Coast Guard shall propose a place of hearing when filing the complaint.

(c) The complaint must conform to the requirements of this subpart for filing and service.

**§ 20.308 Answers.**

(a) The respondent shall file a written answer to the complaint 20 days or less after service of the complaint. The answer must conform to the requirements of this subpart for filing and service.

(b) The person filing the answer shall, in the answer, either agree to the place of hearing proposed in the complaint or propose an alternative.

(c) Each answer must state whether the respondent intends to contest any of the allegations set forth in the complaint. It must include any affirmative defenses that the respondent intends to assert at the hearing. The answer must admit or deny each numbered paragraph of the complaint. If it states that the respondent lacks sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny a particular numbered paragraph, it denies that paragraph. If it does not specifically deny a particular numbered paragraph, it admits that paragraph.

(d) A respondent's failure without good cause to file an answer admits each allegation made in the complaint.

**§ 20.309 Motions.**

(a) A person may apply for an order or ruling not specifically provided for in this subpart, but shall apply for it by motion. Each written motion must comply with the requirements of this subpart for form, filing, and service. Each motion must state clearly and concisely—

(1) Its purpose, and the relief sought;

(2) Any statutory or regulatory authority; and

(3) The facts constituting the grounds for the relief sought.

(b) A proposed order may accompany a motion.

(c) Each motion must be in writing; except that one made at a hearing will be sufficient if stated orally upon the record, unless the ALJ directs that it be reduced to writing.

(d) Except as otherwise required by this part, a party shall file any response to a written motion 10 days or less after service of the motion. When a party makes a motion at a hearing, an oral response to the motion made at the hearing is timely.

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(e) Unless the ALJ orders otherwise, the filing of a motion does not stay a proceeding.

(f) The ALJ will rule on the record either orally or in writing. She or he may summarily deny any dilatory, repetitive, or frivolous motion.

### § 20.310 Default by respondent.

(a) The ALJ may find a respondent in default upon failure to file a timely answer to the complaint or, after motion, upon failure to appear at a conference or hearing without good cause shown.

(b) Each motion for default must conform to the rules of form, service, and filing of this subpart. Each motion must include a proposed decision and proof of service under section 20.304(d). The respondent alleged to be in default shall file a reply to the motion 20 days or less after service of the motion.

(c) Default by respondent constitutes, for purposes of the pending action only, an admission of all facts alleged in the complaint and a waiver of her or his right to a hearing on those facts.

(d) Upon finding a respondent in default, the ALJ shall issue a decision against her or him.

(e) For good cause shown, the ALJ may set aside a finding of default.

### § 20.311 Withdrawal or dismissal.

(a) An administrative proceeding may end in withdrawal without any act by an ALJ in any of the following ways:

(1) By the filing of a stipulation by all parties who have appeared in the proceeding.

(2) By the filing of a notice of withdrawal by the Coast Guard representative at any time before the respondent has served a responsive pleading.

(3) With respect to a complaint filed under section 311(b)(6) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(b)(6)) or section 109(d) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9609(b)), by the filing of—

(i) A notice of withdrawal by the Coast Guard representative at any time after the respondent has served a responsive pleading, but before the issuance of an order assessing or deny-

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ing a class II civil penalty, together with

(ii) A certification by the representative that the filing of the notice is due to a request by the Attorney General—in accordance with subsection 10(d) of Executive Order 12777 (56 FR 54757; 3 CFR, 1991 Comp., p. 351)—that the Coast Guard refrain from conducting an administrative proceeding.

(b) Unless the stipulation or notice of withdrawal states otherwise, a withdrawal under paragraph (a) of this section is without prejudice.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, no administrative proceeding may end in withdrawal unless approved by an ALJ upon such terms as she or he deems proper.

(d) Any respondent may move to dismiss a complaint, the government may move to dismiss a petition, or any party may lodge a request for relief, for failure of another party to—

(1) Comply with the requirements of this part or with any order of the ALJ;

(2) Show a right to relief based upon the facts or law; or

(3) Prosecute the proceeding.

(e) A dismissal resides within the discretion of the ALJ.

## Subpart D—Proceedings

### § 20.401 Initiation of administrative proceedings.

An administrative proceeding commences when the Coast Guard representative files the complaint with the Hearing Docket Clerk and serves a copy of it on the respondent.

### § 20.402 Public notice.

Upon the filing of a complaint under 33 U.S.C. 1321(b) (6), the Coast Guard provides public notice of a class II civil penalty proceeding. The notice appears in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

### § 20.403 Consolidation and severance.

(a) A presiding ALJ may for good cause, with the approval of the Chief ALJ and with all parties given notice and opportunity to object, consolidate any matters at issue in two or more administrative proceedings docketed under this part. (Good cause includes the proceedings' possessing common parties, questions of fact, and issues of